(a) the details of projects undertaken in the State of West Bengal in the last five years under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP);

(b) whether it is a fact that the projects sanctioned under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme are monitored by Regional Offices of the Central Water Commission;

(c) if so, whether the Regional Offices of the CWC has found any irregularities in the above projects taken up under AIBP;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the action that has been contemplated on them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (e) No new major/medium project was included under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during the last five years. However, during 2007-08, 32 new Surface Minor Irrigation (MI) schemes of the state were included in the AIBP. Of these, 23 schemes have been reported as completed by the state government. The state government has requested for deletion of remaining 9 MI schemes from ABIP. Further, some discrepancies were observed in the information provided by the state government in the irrigation potential created under AIBP for 23 completed schemes. The issue has been taken up by the Ministry of Water Resources with the state government and the same has been reconciled.

Water of underground sources

3229. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amount of water being used in India from underground sources is estimated to be 45 per cent more than natural system and the current stock of underground water disappearing at the rate of one feet per year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether water insecurity has come because of poor hydrological management like water storage, distribution usage and conservation; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken by Government to utilize underground sources more effectively?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) In the article titled 'Satellite-based estimates of groundwater depletion in India' published in August, 2009 issue of scientific journal 'Nature' it has been indicated that groundwater is being depleted at a mean rate of 4.0 ± 1.0 cm yr^{-1} equivalent height of water (17.7 ± 4.5 km^3 yr^{-1}) over the Indian states of Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana (including Delhi).

As per the information provided by the States, 45% of the irrigation potential created is through ground water resources and about 47% of the irrigation potential utilized is through ground water. About 85% of the rural drinking water requirement has been assessed to be met from ground water resources.

(c) and (d) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) regularly monitors ground water levels in the country through a network of 15640 observation wells. Further, the States also monitor the ground water levels. Time series data generated by CGWB and the States is used in assessment of replenishable ground water resources in the country as well as categorization of assessment units based on decline in ground water levels and stage of ground water development. These form the basis for planning ground water development and management by the Central Government/States.

The steps taken by Government to utilize underground sources more effectively include circulation of 'Model Bill' to States/Union Territories to enact suitable ground water legislation, constitution of Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) for regulation of ground water management and development, organization of mass awareness programmes on Water Management, Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge of Ground Water.

In addition, CGWA also issued directions to the concerned authorities of the States having 'over-exploited' areas to take necessary measures to adopt/promote artificial recharge to ground water/rain water harvesting, conservation of ground water and also to include provision for construction of roof top rain water harvesting structures as mandatory in the building bye-laws. As per available information, 18 States and 4 UTs have amended building bye-laws incorporating mandatory adoption of roof top rain water harvesting in existing/new buildings in their respective States/UTs.

Redesignation of assistant silt analyst

3230. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that the post of Assistant Silt Analyst in work charged establishment in Central Water Commission has been redesignated to the post of work Sarkar Garde-II under the order of Superintending Engineer, C.W.C. Maithan;

(b) if so, whether redesignation has been done on the basis of Government Order or Department's Order; and

(c) the basis of the said order?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (c) The posts of Assistant Silt Analyst, Work Sarkar (Grade II), and Machine Operator (Grade II), in the "work charged establishment under Superintending Engineer, Hydrological Observation Circle, Central Water Commission (CWC), Maithon, have been merged and designated as Work Sarkar Gr-II vide CWC Hydrological Observation Circle, Maithon order dated 25/5/2009, which was issued with the approval of CWC (Headquarters). This has been done in pursuance of an exercise of review of Work Charged Establishment as per site-wise/work-wise norms in the field formation.